



State of Utah

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January 24, 1997

Mr. Ed King
Jumbo Mining Co.
6305 Fern Spring Cove
Austin, TX 78730

Dear Mr. King:

Subject: Response To Your January 6, 1997 Letter

We have received your letter dated January 6, 1997, and I would like to clarify some points regarding the Division of Water Quality's (DWQ) interest in the leach facilities at the Drum Mine.

Information on the chemical quality of leachate from the pads is very important to us for determining how to address ground water protection needs at the site. The samples that have been taken so far would indicate that leachate from the pads is of comparable quality to other leach pads that we have formally closed under the ground water permitting process. Unfortunately, the samples that DWQ, or other government agencies have taken to date, either were not representative of the whole site or did not follow proper sampling procedures. Also, we do not know enough about the state of the leachate collection facilities to determine which portions of the heaps is represented by a particular sample, or whether there were opportunities for dilution or contamination from unrepaired collection ditches or pipelines.

In order to get a valid sample, I have arranged for Sheri Wysong of the Bureau of Land Management to take samples at the next opportunity after a rainfall or snowmelt event. I have also asked Dave Hartshorn to report on the condition of the leachate collection facilities and to propose representative sample sites. The issue of future regulatory requirements for the leach pads cannot be resolved until both these questions have been addressed.

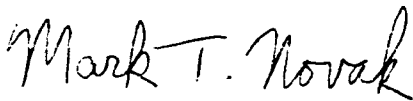


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Your letter also referred to DWQ approval of engineering plans for the site. We remind you that if these plans call for construction of new leaching facilities or other activities which could result in a discharge of pollutants to ground water, you must obtain a ground water discharge permit before construction of the facilities may begin. You should apply for the permit at least 180 days before it is needed.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Mark Novak, Environmental Scientist
Ground Water Protection Section

MN:wlm

cc: Central Utah Health Dept.
Roger Foisy, District Engineer
Wayne Hedberg, DOGM
Sheri Wysong, BLM
Dave Hartshorn, Drum Mine